WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A conferencing method comprising:

receiving first conference-endpoint data for a first conference type from a first endpoint;

reading a conference type identifier from a memory, the conference type identifier specifying a second conference type for a second endpoint participating in a conference with the first endpoint;

selecting a conversion program based on the second conference type; initiating execution of the conversion program on the first conference-endpoint data to prepare converted first conference-endpoint data compatible with the second conference type from the first conference-endpoint data; and

transmitting the converted first conference-endpoint data to the second endpoint.

- 2. The method of claim 1, where the first conference type is a text messaging conference, and where the second conference type is a voice conference.
- 3. The method of claim 1, where the act of initiating execution of the conversion program comprises initiating execution of a text-to-speech translator.
- 4. The method of claim 1, where the act of initiating execution of the conversion program comprises initiating execution of a speech-to-text translator.
- 5. The method of claim 1, where the act of transmitting comprises transmitting the converted first conference-endpoint data and a first endpoint identifier to the second endpoint.

- 6. The method of claim 1, where the act of transmitting comprises transmitting the first conference-endpoint data and the converted first conference-endpoint data to the second endpoint.
- 7. The method of claim 1, further comprising:

receiving second conference-endpoint data for the second conference type from the second endpoint;

preparing converted second conference-endpoint data compatible with the first conference type from the second conference-endpoint data; and

transmitting the second converted conference-endpoint data to the first endpoint.

- 8. The method of claim 1, where the act of initiating execution of the conversion program comprises initiating execution of a text-to-speech translator, and further comprising the act of selecting a voice for at least one of the first and second endpoints.
- 9. The method of claim 1, where at least one of the first conference type and second conference type is at least one of a decentralized text messaging conference and a centralized text messaging conference.
- 10. The method of claim 1, further comprising reading an endpoint identifier and establishing aiding data for speech-to-text translation associated with the endpoint identifier.
- 11. A conferencing system comprising:

first conference-endpoint data for a first conference type received from a first endpoint;

a conference type identifier specifying a second conference type for a second endpoint participating in a conference with the first endpoint; and

a conversion program operable to prepare converted first endpoint data compatible with the second conference type from the first conference endpoint data, and

a processor operable to execute the conversion program when the second conference type is different than the first conference type.

- 12. The conferencing system of claim 11, where the first conference type is a text messaging conference, and where the second conference type is a voice conference.
- 13. The conferencing system of claim 11, where the conversion program comprises at least one of a text-to-speech translator and a speech-to-text translator.
- 14. The conferencing system of claim of claim 11, where the conversion program comprises a text-to-speech translator, and where the memory further comprises a speech-to-text translator.
- 15. The conferencing system of claim 14, where:

the memory further comprises second conference-endpoint data for the second conference type received from the second endpoint; and

where the processor executes the text-to-speech translator on the first conference-endpoint data to prepare the converted first conference-endpoint data, and executes the speech-to-text translator on the second conference-endpoint data to prepare converted second conference-endpoint data.

16. The conferencing system of claim 15, where the processor initiates transmission of the converted first-endpoint data to the second endpoint and initiates transmission of the converted second-endpoint data to the first endpoint.

- 17. The conferencing system of claim 11, where the processor initiates transmission of the converted first-endpoint data and a first endpoint identifier to the second endpoint.
- 18. The conferencing system of claim 11, where the first conference type is at least one of a centralized and decentralized instant messaging conference, and where the processor is operable to initiate transmission of the converted first endpoint data according to a pre-selected instant messaging protocol.
- 19. The conferencing system of claim 11, where the conversion program is a text-to-speech translator, and where the memory further comprises voice data for a voice for at least one of the first and second endpoints.
- 20. The conferencing system of claim 11, where the memory further comprises an endpoint identifier and aiding data for speech-to-text translation associated with the endpoint identifier.
- 21. A machine readable medium encoded with instructions that cause a data processing system to perform a method comprising the acts of:

retrieving first conference-endpoint data for a first conference type received from a first endpoint from a memory;

determining a second conference type for a second endpoint participating in a conference with the first endpoint;

initiating preparation of converted first-endpoint data compatible with the second conference type from the first conference-endpoint data when the second conference type is different than the first conference type; and

initiating transmission of the converted first-endpoint data to the second endpoint.

22. The machine readable medium of claim 21, where the act of determining the second conference type comprises retrieving a conference type identifier from the memory.

- 23. The machine readable medium of claim 21, where the act of initiating preparation comprises initiating execution of at least one of a text-to-speech translator and a speech-to-text translator.
- 24. The machine readable medium of claim 21, further comprising: retrieving second conference-endpoint data for the second conference type from the memory; and

initiating preparation of converted second-endpoint data compatible with the first conference type from the second conference-endpoint data; and initiating transmission of the converted second-endpoint data to the first endpoint.

- 25. The machine readable medium of claim 21, where transmitting further comprises transmitting a first endpoint identifier to the second endpoint.
- 26. The machine readable medium of claim 21, where the second conference type is an instant messaging conference and where initiating transmission comprises initiating transmission of the converted first-endpoint data according to a pre-selected instant messaging protocol.
- 27. The machine readable medium of claim 21, where the act of initiating preparation comprises initiating execution of a text-to-speech translator, and further comprising the act of selecting a voice for at least one of the first and second endpoints.
- 28. The machine readable medium of claim 21, where at least one of the first conference type and second conference type is at least one of a decentralized text messaging conference and a centralized text messaging conference.

29. The machine readable medium of claim 21, further comprising reading an endpoint identifier and establishing aiding data for speech-to-text translation associated with the endpoint identifier.